

Remarks

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-18 are rejected. Claims 7 and 16 are objected to. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-18.

It is noted by the Examiner that the present application claims foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). In a telephone conversation with David Wilbert, on March 12, 2007, Examiner agreed that the application does not need to include continuation data as the application is in the national stage of PCT/US03/11959. Applicants respectfully thank Examiner for the conversation held on that day.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,398,554 (Ogawa).

Independent claims 1 and 10 require a balance system sized and located such that the momentum of the balance system is equal and opposite to the momentum of the drive system. Advantageously, the claims may be implemented in some embodiments to counter the vibrations that occur as a result of the imbalance due to the driver mass.

Ogawa does not disclose a balance system that provides a momentum that is equal and opposite to the drive system. In contrast, Ogawa provides a weight that is bolted to the outer conduit to achieve equal natural frequencies between the inner conduit and the outer conduit. Ogawa does not discuss balancing the momentum of the drive system in order to reduce unwanted vibrations. Examiner states that the mass of Ogawa is attached using leaf springs as disclosed in the claimed invention. Ogawa is mischaracterized in this respect. As stated in column 5, lines 44-47 of Ogawa, the balancer (39) is secured using a bolt and nut for adjusting the natural frequency of the outer conduit.

Independent claims 1 and 10 therefore include features that are not taught by Ogawa. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 depend from claims 1 and 10 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 10.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-18.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

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